THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Number of LPG Distributors in Thane & Kalyan HPC—7, and BPC—10.

(b) As on 1-10-92 there were 14.67 lakhs persons on waiting list in the State of Maharashtra. Clearance of waiting list depends on various factors like product availability, location of distributorship number of person on waiting list, etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) The present policy of release of LPG connections is based on principle of distribution of connections, keeping in view the viability aspect of dealerships and average refill sale per month vis-a-vis the ceiling limit fixed in terms of refill sale per month for the distributor. While no change in the policy is contemplated, efforts are constantly on to give LPG connections early to as many applicants as possible.

Irregularities in Placement of Order to P. J. Pipes by ONGC

2491. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC is planning to place huge order running into crores of rupees for supply of casing pipes with controversy ridden M/s. P. J. Pipes and Vessels Limited for its projects involving stoppage of gas flamming at Bombay High;

(b) whether it is also a fact that govermnent also decided to place orders on M/s. Voest Alpine, Austria in anticipation of availability of Austrian credit the possibility of which is rated as remote;

(c) whether it is a fact that M/s. P. J. Pipes had defaulted on many occasions, to obtain orders for supply of casing pipes and that 70 MPs sought enquiry by CBI into alleged irregularities in placement of order to P. J. Pipes by ONGC on earlier occasion;

(d) in the light of various irregularities committed by M/s. P. J. Pipes as per record of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence in 1990, what is the justification in favouring this firm; and

(e) why has this firm not been blacklisted ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Orders will be placed only if credit is available.

(c) It is alleged in the momrandum submitted by the MP's that M/s. P. J. Pipes evaded customs duty and committed fraud and despite this an order for linepipes was placed on the firm by ONGC.

(d) and (e) As the irregularities committed by the firm related to matters concerning Ministry of Commerce and Department of Revenue like misuse of import licences and evasion of customs duty etc., apart from the penal actions taken by the Revenue authorities, Ministry of Commerce have also debarred the firm from receiving import licences etc. for a period of 2 years, subject to certain conditions.

Price preference to Indigenous Supplies by ONGC

2492. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS :

SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH :

SHRI P. UPENDRA :

SHRI MOHD. MASUD KHAN :

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any price preference is given to indigenous supplies by ONGC when tenders are floated by ONGC and whether international companies also make bids for ONGC projects;

(b) if so, what is the criteria of price preference;

(c) whether value addition is the major criteria, if so, how they are calculated;

(d) whehter there is any uniform guidelines for all the Government Departments and also applicable to ONGC;

(e) whether the difference between the lowest CIF Value and domestic Value in relating to total foreign exchange requirement of an indigenous supplier is taken into consideration; and

(f) whether while calculating domestic value addition value engineering method is adopted by ONGC, if so, what are the standard parameters ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The criterion for giving price preference is domestic value added, which is derived from the cif price of the lowest acceptable tenderer and direct import requirements of raw materials components and consumables of the Indian bid under evaluation. This price preference policy for supplies to ONGC is not applicable for Government Departments.

(f) With the introduction of Liberalised Exchange Rate Management System value engineering gives a fair indication of the genuineness of the value addition claimed by the bidder.

Decline in Gas Production

2493. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS :
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH :
SHRI P. UPENDRA :
SHRI MOHAMMED MASOOD KHAN :
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that production of gas is 48 MMSCMD while around 11 MMSCMD i.e. more than 20 per cent is flared up;

(b) where was the lacuna or what was faulty planning due to which such a huge waste has occurred; and

(c) what is the reason for decline in gas production ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND (a) In 1991-92 on an average 51 MMSCMD of gas was produced, of which approx. 11 MMSCMD was flared.

(b) Flaring of gas resulted on account of higher than expected gas production in the Western Offshore region and absence of adequate compression and transportation facilities, and in some areas like Assam, due to lack of consumers.

(c) There is a temporary decline in production of gas on account of ONGC having taken up rectificatory measures in the Bombay High field.

Petrol/Diesel/LPG Outlets released from the Minister's Quota

2494. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petrol/diesel/LPG outlets released by Government from the Minister's Quota during the years 1989-90, 90-91 and 91-92;

(b) the names of the individual/individuals who were granted the about outlets category-wise; and

(c) whether Government propose to continue the policy of allocating these outlets through discretionary quota, if so, the reasons for not discontinuing the quota system ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) During the last three years ending March 1992, 144 petrol/diesel outlets and 129 LPG distributorships were allotted under the discretion of Government. Allotments made during December 1989 to June 1991 are under review.

(c) The policy will continue, as such allotments are made on compassionate grounds to deserving cases.

बिहार में खाना पकाने की गैस के डीलरों की नियुक्ति

2495. श्री गया सिंह : क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 1991-92 के दौरान बिहार में